

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of evaluating a system-on-a-chip IC (SoC), comprising the following steps of:

5 building two or more metal layers to establish a pad frame and internal circuit nodes for each core in an SoC while connecting I/O (input and output) pads on a lower metal layer to a top metal layer, thereby exposing all I/O pads and power pads on a surface of the top metal layer of the pad frame of each core; and

10 applying test vector to each core through the I/O pads on the top metal layer of the core and evaluating response outputs of the core received through the I/O pads on the top metal layer.

15 2. A method of evaluating a system-on-a-chip (SoC) as defined in Claim 1, wherein the step of building the metal layers of core includes a step of duplicating the internal circuit node in the core to the top metal layer, thereby making accessible of the internal circuit node and the I/O pads by contact probes.

20 3. A method of evaluating a system-on-a-chip (SoC) as defined in Claim 1, wherein the step of connecting the I/O pads to the top metal layer includes a step of using metal vias between a lower metal layer and an upper metal layer of the pad frame, thereby duplicating the I/O pads toward the top metal layer.

25 4. A method of evaluating a system-on-a-chip (SoC), comprising the following steps of:

30 building a chip I/O (input and output) frame at an outer area of an SoC for interfacing with the SoC through contact pads formed thereon;

35 building two or more metal layers to establish a pad frame and internal circuit nodes for each core in the SoC while connecting I/O pads on a lower metal layer to a top metal layer, thereby exposing all I/O pads and power pads on a surface of the top metal layer of the

pad frame of each core;

applying test vector to the SoC through the contact pads formed on the chip I/O pad frame and evaluating response outputs of the SoC received through the contact pads on the chip I/O pad frame; and

applying test vector to each core through the I/O pads formed on the top metal layer of the core and evaluating response outputs of the core received through the I/O pads on the top metal layer.

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10 5. A method of evaluating a system-on-a-chip (SoC) as defined in Claim 4, wherein the step of building the metal layers includes a step of duplicating the internal circuit node in the core to the top metal layer, thereby making accessible of the internal circuit node and the I/O pads by contact probes.

15 6. A method of evaluating a system-on-a-chip (SoC) as defined in Claim 4, wherein the step of connecting the I/O pads to the top metal layer includes a step of using metal vias between a lower metal layer and an upper metal layer of the pad frame, thereby duplicating the I/O pads toward the top metal layer.

20 7. A method of evaluating a system-on-a-chip (SoC) as defined in Claim 4, further comprising the step of removing the I/O pads on the top metal layer of each core.

25 8. A structure of a system-on-a-chip IC (SoC) for evaluating design integrity thereof, comprising:

a chip I/O (input and output) frame at an outer area of the SoC for interfacing with the SoC through contact pads formed thereon; and

30 two or more metal layers of a pad frame for each core in the SoC where I/O pads on a lower metal layer are connected to a top metal layer, thereby exposing all I/O pads and power pads on a surface of the top metal layer of the pad frame of each core;

35 wherein test vectors are applied to the SoC through

